

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 were presented for consideration in this application. By the foregoing amendment, Applicant has amended Claim 1. Claims 1-2 remain pending.

Base Claim 1 requires determination of bandpass voicing levels for zero-phase equalization filtering during encoding. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite “determine bandpass voicing levels for each of a plurality of bands.“ In contrast, in Gersho “For every frame, a speech classifier/pitch/voicing (CPV) module 18 classifies the speech as stationary unvoiced, steady-state voiced (harmonic), or transition speech.” (col 13, lines 22-25) Gersho at best treats each frame as one single band and has no suggestion of treating each frame as a plurality of bands. Likewise, Applicant finds no suggestion in Honda to “determine bandpass voicing levels for a plurality of bands for a frame of speech” as recited in Applicant’s Claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over the cited references in any combination.

The Examiner admits Gersho does not teach zero-phase equalization filtering. To the extent Honda mentions “zero phase” it is in the context of “a phase equalizing filter for rendering the phase characteristic of the speech into a zero phase and reference time points of phase equalization...” (col 4, lines 5-9) In this same context, Honda is processing the entire speech signal with no suggestion of “wherein harmonics which fall into a band of the plurality of bands that was determined to have a voicing level below a threshold in step (a) are replaced for said zero-phase equalization filter.” Thus, Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references for this further reason.

The Examiner further admits “Gersho et al in view of Honda do not specifically teach that harmonic which fall into a band that was determined to have a voicing level below a threshold are replaced for said zero-phase equalization filter.” Given that neither Gersho nor Honda suggest “determine bandpass voicing levels for each of a plurality of bands for a frame of speech” the discussion of switchable codebooks in Gersho is not relevant to a zero-phase

equalization filter based on a plurality of bands as recited in Applicant's Claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over the cited references for this additional reason.

Claim 2 depends directly on Claim 1 and is allowable for this reason.

Applicant believes this application and the claims herein to be in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner allow this application to pass to the issue branch.

Should the Examiner have further inquiry concerning these matters, please contact the below named attorney for Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

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